

Randall Baxley**6678 Love Point Rd ~ Denver ~ NC ~ 28650**

January 16, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

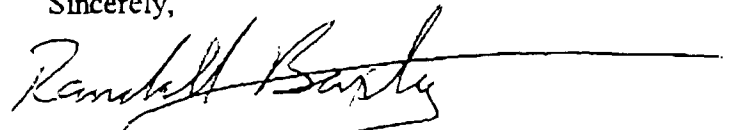
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

As a Microsoft supporter, I would like to see this case concluded. I believe Microsoft has become powerful not by malicious intent, but because it makes a quality product that is reasonably priced. I do not agree with every decision that Microsoft has made in the past, but I understand the idea of aggressively marketing your own product. Either way, I do not agree with the allocation of scarce state and federal resources on problems that have already been solved.

Under the settlement agreement, Microsoft has promised to change the way it develops, licenses, and markets its software. It has granted computer makers broad new rights to configure Windows to better promote non-Microsoft software on the Windows platform. Also, Microsoft has agreed not to retaliate against software or hardware developers who develop or promote software that competes with Windows. Microsoft has opened its inventions to the competition that would see that invention become obsolete. This goes against the very fundamentals of capitalism, but if it ends the case, then Microsoft is willing to concede.

Although the settlement reaches further than Microsoft may have wished, Microsoft realizes that settling sooner is better than settling later. The longer that the case proceeds and innovation suffers, the greater the risk that American products may lose their competitive advantages in the world market. I am convinced that the only reason states would continue litigation would be an effort to appease Microsoft's competitors, rather than to protect consumers. Let's make sure that we don't lose our place as the world leader in the IT industry; let's end this debacle once and for all.

Sincerely,



Randall Baxley